

Region 2 RCRA Corrective Action Site Fact Sheet

Last Update: February 10, 2000

CARIBE GE PRODUCTS, INC.

EPA ID#: PRD090282757

LOCATION: State Road 149, Km 67, Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico

EPA CONTACT NAME: Samuel Ezekwo, (212) 637-4168

Other (Former) Names of Site:

None

Site Description:

Caribe General Electric Products, Inc. (CGEP), Juana Diaz started operations in 1957 on the property of Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, which was used at that time to grow sugarcane. CGEP later acquired the property in 1987. The Company currently handles electroplating of manufactured wiring devices. From 1957 to 1970 the company's west field was used as a receptor for processed defective mercury buttons. The wastes disposed at this landfill included plastic fragments, broken glass, mercury switch buttons, brass stampings and rubber. In 1982 the site was included in the national Pollutant Priority List. To the west of the facility is a residential area with a population of 10,000 inhabitants within 5 miles.

Site Responsibility:

Clean-up at this site is being addressed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of the of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). However, the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB) participates with EPA in cleanup decision-making and oversight. In 1983 a CERCLA (Superfund) Order was issued to CGEP requiring the Company to cleanup the contaminated landfill at the facility. Before clean up, CGEP was required to conduct remedial investigation and study of alternative remedial actions (feasibility study).

In 1987 CGEP requested a change in status from a Hazardous Waste Storage Area to a Hazardous Waste Generator facility, since the only RCRA unit at the facility was the container storage area for which CGEP submitted a closure plan. CERCLA (Superfund) therefore took responsibility for overseeing clean up of

the landfill while RCRA was responsible for closure of the CSA.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Status:

In 1993, Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which mandated that all Federal agencies develop strategic plans, establish annual performance plans (which set objective, quantifiable and measurable annual targets and goals), and produce annual program performance reports that compare actual performance to the annual goals. CGEP is a GPRA facility.

The goals, as far as RCRA facilities are concerned, are that by 2005, the States and EPA will verify and document that 95 percent of the 1712 high priority RCRA facilities (of which this is one) will have "current human exposures under control," and 70 percent of these facilities will have "migration of contaminated groundwater under control."

Threats and Contaminants:

A 1989 RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) Report conducted by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in Puerto Rico identified nine areas of potential contamination at the site. Only two of these areas required further attention, the landfill for the defective mercury buttons and the container storage area (CSA). The RFA determined that the landfill and the CSA needed further investigation and clean up.

Soil contamination at the CGEP site was due to poor waste management practices resulting from land filling mercury-contaminated buttons and inadequate containment system for the container storage area.

Cleanup Approach

Cleanup Status/Corrective Action:

The landfill is being addressed by EPA under CERCLA authority, and the CSA by CGEP, with EPA oversight under RCRA.

Response Action Status:

Entire Site: The Record of Decision (ROD) for the facility was signed in November 1988. In the ROD, metal (mercury) extraction was chosen as the cleanup technology. Problems with this method led to a July 1999 amended ROD allowing cleanup by excavation and disposal of the soil and debris in a hazardous waste landfill located in Pinewood, South Carolina. Cleanup will be completed in April 2000.

The container storage area has been closed by excavating the contaminated soil and back filling with clean soil. Closure certification was approved by EQB in March 1991.

Cleanup Progress:

Over 13,000 tons of contaminated soils and debris have been excavated from the landfill. The excavated materials will be disposed of at the RCRA landfill in Pinewood, South Carolina. The excavated landfill will be backfilled with clean soil by April 2000.

Permits Status

This facility does not have a RCRA permit.

Site Repository:

The United States Environmental Protection, Region 2, Division of Environmental Planning & Protection, 290 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10007, telephone (212) 637-4168.